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8/29/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Massaro et al
Serial No.: 09/919,195
Conf. No. 4830
Filed: July 31, 2001

For: METHODS AND
COMPOSITIONS FOR THE
TREATMENT AND PREVENTION
OF LUNG DISEASE

Examiner: Seaman, Margaret

Group Art Unit: 1625

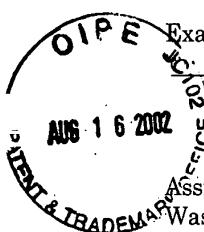
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Signature: Bonnie Ferguson

Date of Signature: 8/16/2002



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY AND AMENDMENT

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Dear Sir:

This Reply is being filed in reply to the Office Action mailed April 24, 2002. Applicants have the following comments.

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AMENDMENT

Kindly cancel pending claims 1-12 without prejudice to their later prosecution.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments in the Office Action dated April 24, 2002, and respond as follows. In order to expedite allowance, claims 1-12 have 1 has been amended to indicate that the composition comprises a pharmacologically acceptable vehicle suitable for treatment of lung pathologies and a therapeutically effective amount of the RAR α antagonist. Support for the amendments can be found on pages 5, 6, 7 and 12 of the specification.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 as rendered obvious by one or more of US Patents 5,776,699, 6,218,128, and 6,228,848, to Klein. The Applicants have cancelled these claims without